

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on June 01, 2005. Claims 51-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. 6,535,493) in view of Lazaridis, et al. (U.S. 6,219,694). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 51-66 are patentably distinct from the Lee and Lazaridis references, or any combination thereof. Claim 51 recites a local-area wireless communication system that enables mobile devices to send and receive data while roaming between a wide-area wireless network (e.g., a cellular network) and the local-area wireless communication system. This claimed operation is performed by a plurality of local base stations and a redirector. The local base stations are used to route outgoing communications to a mobile device either 1) over the local-area wireless communication system or 2) over the wide-area wireless network, depending on whether the mobile device is currently in communication with the local-area wireless communication system. The redirector provides an interface between the local-area wireless communication system and the wide-area wireless network.

As an example, if a person is within an office environment that has a local-area wireless communication system, as recited in claim 51, then communications (e.g., phone call, e-mail, etc.) directed to that person's mobile device may be received over the local-area wireless communication system. If the communication is initiated from within the local-area wireless communication system, then the communication may be performed entirely within the local-area wireless communication system, without requiring the use of a wide-area communication network, such as a cellular network. However, if the person walks outside of the office environment, then the local-area wireless communication system will detect that the person's mobile device is no longer in communication with the local base stations, and will route outgoing communications to the person over the wide-area wireless communication network.

Neither the Lee nor Lazaridis references describe a system that can route messages to a mobile device over either a wide-area wireless network (such as a cellular network) or a local-area wireless

network, depending on the location of the mobile device. Applicants therefore submit that the rejection of claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

The Lee reference describes a system for providing wireless communications over local-area wireless networks, and also describes a method for routing information to a mobile unit in either a home local-area wireless network or a remote local-area wireless network. The Lee reference does not, however, disclose routing information over a wide-area wireless network. In this regard, the Office Action is incorrect in its conclusion that the access point (AP) modules described in the Lee reference are configured to route outgoing messages over a wide-area wireless network, and thus enable mobile devices to send and receive data while roaming between a wide-area wireless network and the local-area wireless communication system. (See, Office Action, page 4).

The AP modules described in the Lee reference provide an interface between the local-area wireless networks and a wide-area wired network, such as the Internet. (See, e.g., Lee, Figure 1). That is, Lee discloses routing information from one local-area wireless network to another local-area wireless network over the Internet. It does not disclose routing information to either a local-area wireless network or a wide-area wireless network. In fact, the use of a wide-area wireless network is not even considered in Lee. Notably, the Lee reference explains its operation as follows -- "Datagrams are automatically routed to the unit anywhere in the world *where the corresponding local networks are available*, regardless of its position." (Lee, Column 12, line 65 - Column 13, line 2, with emphasis added). In contrast, the invention recited in claim 51 automatically routes messages to the unit outside of the local-area wireless network over a wide-area wireless network. The claimed invention thus improves upon Lee by eliminating the requirement that a corresponding local network be available.

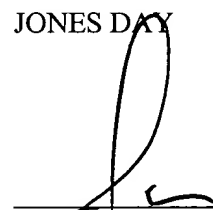
The Lazaridis reference discloses a redirector that provides an interface between a LAN-based electronic messaging system and mobile devices operating in a wide-area wireless network. However, the Lazaridis reference does not disclose any means for routing messages to a mobile device over either a

wide-area wireless network or a local-area wireless network, depending on the location of the mobile device.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants contend that new claims 51-66 are patentably distinct from the cited references and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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